

## Message Text

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SUBJ: QUARTERLY REPORT ON NARCOTICS CONTROL

REF A-4700

### 1. SUMMARY.

THE NEW LOPEZ ADMIN, WHICH TOOK OFFICE ON AUG 7/74 HAS INDICATED BY CERTAIN ACTIONS, AS WELL AS WORDS, THAT IT WILL GIVE A HIGH PRIORITY TO THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM. THE PRES HAS APPOINTED NEW DIRECTORS OF DAS AND CUSTOMS AND NUMEROUS PERSONNEL CHANGES HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN BOTH ORGS AS THE NEW CHIEFS ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE THE INTEGRITY OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AGENCIES. THE NEWS MEDIA HAS GIVEN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO THE NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND APPEALED FOR CITIZEN COOPERATION IN THE WAR ON DRUGS. DURING THIS PERIOD THE NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTED ONE OF THEIR MEMBERS AS A MAJOR TRAFFICKER, SEIZED DC-3 AIRCRAFT AND 100 KILOS OF COCAINE. HIGH LEVEL GOC AND PRIVATE INTEREST IN EDUCATION/REHABILITATION PROGRAMS FOR COLOMBIA IS ON THE INCREASE.

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### 2. ABUSE.

COLOMBIA STILL LACKS A COMPREHENSIVE, SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS OF THE EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN COLOMBIA. MARIJUANA CONTINUES TO BE THE

NUMBER ONE ABUSE PROBLEM WITHIN COLOMBIA. THE USE OF COCAINE APPEARS TO BE LIMITED TO CRIMINAL GROUPS AND AN OCCASIONAL SOPHISTICATED SOCIAL SET. AUTHORITIES HAVE ENCOUNTERED ABUSE OF LSD ON A MINOR SCALE. NUMEROUS DRUG ABUSE SEMINARS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN COLOMBIA WITH PARTICIPATION FROM BOTH GOVT AND PRIVATE SECTORS. THE NEWS MEDIA HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE EXTENT OF DRUG ABUSE IN COLOMBIA AND THE VARIOUS ARRESTS MADE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES OF PERSONS INVOLVED IN "DRUG PARTIES." NEWSPAPERS HAVE EDITORIALIZED THE NEED FOR IMPROVED NARCOTICS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND CITIZEN PARTICIPATION AND COOPERATION IN ASSISTING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THEIR EFFORTS.

THERE APPEARS TO BE GENUINE CONCERN AND AWARENESS ON THE PART OF HIGH GOC OFFICIALS OF THE TOTAL DRUG PROBLEM IN COLOMBIA. THE PRES HAS MADE SEVERAL STATEMENTS TO THE EFFECT THAT HE IS GREATLY CONCERNED OVER THE ROLE COLOMBIA PLAYS IN THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG SCENE AND INTENDS TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BRING THE SITUATION UNDER CONTROL. HE HAS APPOINTED NEW DIRECTORS IN BOTH CUSTOMS AND THE DEPT OF ADMIN AND SECURITY (DAS) WITH ORDERS TO PLACE EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT.

### 3. PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING

IN LATE JUNE 74 GOC DECREE 1188 ESTABLISHED GUIDELINES FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION AS A NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM. THE DECREE STATES THAT THE CULTIVATION OF MARIJUANA IS ILLEGAL AND SHOULD BE DESTROYED WITHOUT REGARD FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION. THE CROP SUBSTITUTION PROGRAM IS DIRECTED TOWARDS THE COCA PLANT GROWN BY INDIGENOUS INDIANS FOR THEIR OWN USE. ANY COCA GROWN FOR COMMERCIAL USE SHOULD BE DESTROYED WITHOUT CONSIDERATION FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION.

### 4. TRAFFICKING TRENDS

THE BANANA GROWERS AND SHIPPERS ALONG THE NORTH COAST OF COLOMBIA IN THE AREA OF TURBO HAVE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT THE AMOUNT OF ILLICIT DRUGS LEAVING THE AREA IN THEIR VESSELS. THEY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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FEAR THAT THESE VESSELS WILL BE INSPECTED AND DELAYED IN THE US THEREBY DISRUPTING THE BANANA TRADE. THE BANANA GROWERS HAVE GONE TO THE GOVERNOR OF ANTIOQUIA TO REQUEST GOC AND US ASSISTANCE. THE NATIONAL POLICE AND DEA PER RECENTLY CONDUCTED A SURVEY OF THE SITUATION AND HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS: A) THE NATIONAL POLICE DISTRICT COMMANDER IN THIS AREA HAS ASSIGNED THREE NATIONAL POLICEMEN TO INSPECT ALL VESSELS AND INVESTIGATE THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. B) TO ASSIST THEM THE GOVERNOR HAS FURNISHED A VEHICLE AND THE BANANA GROWERS HAVE SUPPLIED MARINE TRANSPORTATION. C) THE NATIONAL POLICE, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE ATTORNEY GEN'S OFFICE, ARE DEVELOPING EVIDENCE ON SUSPECTED AND KNOWN TRAFFICKERS IN THE AREA IN AN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN THEIR PROSECUTION. DEA IS ASSISTING WITH THE INVESTIGATION.

(REF MEDELLIN 259, STATE 194263 AND BOGOTA 8096).

5. ENFORCEMENT.

ON JULY 14 THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT IN AN UNDERCOVER OP WITH DEA ARRESTED ONE US CITIZEN, THREE COLOMBIANS AND SEIZED APPROX 6 KILOS OF COCAINE (REF BOGOTA 6191).

ON AUG 24 THE NATIONAL POLICE ARRESTED A FORMER NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT OFFICER, DETAINED SEVEN SUSPECTS, SEIZED A DC-3 AIRPLANE AND APPROX 100 KILOS OF COCAINE PASTE. AS WELL AS THE AMOUNT OF COCAINE PASTE SEIZED, THERE ARE TWO SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS OF THIS CASE: A) THE NP NARCOTICS OFFICER ARRESTED HAD BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BY THE NP. JUST PRIOR TO HIS ARREST MEMBERS OF THE NARCOTICS UNIT HAD CIRCULATED HIS DESCRIPTION AND ADVISED THE NP IN THIS AREA THAT IF THIS OFFICER WAS ENCOUNTERED HE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. AT THE TIME OF HIS ARREST HE ATTEMPTED TO EVADE ARREST BY STATING HE WAS ON AN OFFICIAL ASSIGNMENT. HOWEVER BASED ON THE INFO HE WAS RECOGNIZED AND A THOROUGH SEARCH OF THE AIRCRAFT WAS CONDUCTED REVEALING THE COCAINE PASTE. B) AS PROVIDED FOR IN DECREE 1188 THE NP ARE ATTEMPTING TO RETAIN POSSESSION OF THE SEIZED AIRCRAFT FOR THEIR OWN USE, WHICH WILL BE A PRECEDENT FOR FUTURE CONFISCATIONS.

ON SEP 17, THE NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT WITH DEA ASSISTANCE EXECUTED SEARCH WARRANTS ON 14 RESIDENCES IN AN ACTION AGAINST A MAJOR NARCOTICS ORG IN BOGOTA KNOWN AS "LOS COSTENOS." A TOTAL OF 20 KILOS OF COCAINE, \$2,100.00 IN COUNTERFEIT US CURRENCY, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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5 HANDGUNS, 500 ROUNDS OF AMMO, ASSORTED LAB PARAPHANALIA, 5 VEHICLES AND 100 GRAMS OF COCAINE WERE SEIZED. THREE SUSPECTS WERE ARRESTED, AMONG THEM ONE CLASS I AND CLASS II TRAFFICKERS (BOGOTA 8401). BILATERAL ENFORCEMENT ACTION IN COLOMBIA ACCOUNTED FOR THE ARREST OF 21 DEFENDANTS, INCLUDING 5 CLASS I, ONE CLASS II AND FOUR CLASS III VIOLATORS. FIVE DEA FUGITIVES WERE LOCATED AND DEPORTED TO THE US.

PRES LOPEZ HAS APPOINTED MAJGEN JOSE JOAQUIN MATAALLANA, AN ACTIVE COLOMBIAN ARMY GEN, AS THE NEW CHIEF OF DAS. GEN MATAALLANA IS REPUTED TO BE AN HONEST, HARDWORKING, EFFICIENT OFFICER. MATAALLANA HAS ALREADY REPLACED ALL OF THE DIVISION CHIEFS WITHIN DAS AS WELL AS MANY OF THE PER. BOTH MATAALLANA AND THE PRES HAVE STATED DAS WILL BE THE PRIMARY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN COLOMBIA. MATAALLANA HAS REQUESTED US TECH AND COMMODITY ASSISTANCE TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS. (REF BOGOTA 8095 AND 8315).

THE PRES HAS ALSO APPOINTED MAJOR (R) RAUL OCAMPO AS DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMS AND LTC NELSON MEJIA AS THE CHIEF OF CUSTOMS "RESGUARDO." LTC MEJIA HAS STATED HE WAS PERSONALLY ASSIGNED BY THE PRES TO CLEAN UP CUSTOMS "RESGUARDO" AND FORM A COMPETENT,

EFFECTIVE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY. HE IS PRESENTLY IN THE PROCESS OF FIRING INCOMPETENT, CORRUPT OFFICIALS. HE ALSO HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE FOR FULL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE FROM THE US TO IMPROVE CUSTOMS NARCOTICS INTERDICTION CAPABILITY.

A SPECIAL PROSECUTOR FROM THE COLOMBIAN ATTORNEY GEN'S OFFICE HAS REQUESTED ADDITIONAL US ASSISTANCE IN GAINING CONVICTION OF COLOMBIAN NATIONAL FLORESMIRO HERNANDEZ CONTRERAS. THE PROSECUTOR IS AWARE THAT A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THIS CASE COULD BECOME A LEGAL PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD FACILITATE FUTURE PROSECUTION OF MANY LARGE SCALE COLOMBIAN TRAFFICKERS. (REF BOGOTA 8465 AND DEA 7148). THE PRES HAS CHARGED THE ATTORNEY GEN WITH PERSONALLY OVERSEEING ALL NARCOTICS PROSECUTION CASES WITH THE OBJECT OF OBTAINING APPROPRIATE CONVICTIONS. AS A RESULT SEVERAL JUDGES HAVE BEEN FIRED AND THE REST REMAIN ON NOTICE OF THE GOC EFFORT TO IMPROVE THE JUDICIAL IMAGE. THE PREVIOUS ATMOSPHERE OF ALMOST CERTAIN RELEASE UPON SUFFICIENT REMUNERATION TO JUDGES BY NARCOTICS OFFENDERS HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER. THE COLOMBIAN COURT SYSTEM HAS A LONG HISTORY FOR FAILURE TO HAND DOWN CONVICTIONS. HOWEVER PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE CONVICTION RATE OF NARCOTICS

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OFFENDERS HAS IMPROVED. EVEN THOUGH THE CONVICTION OF NARCOTICS OFFENDERS HAS NOT REACHED THE DESIRABLE LEVEL IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE "SWINGING DOOR" TREATMENT HAS BEEN REDUCED AND OFFENDERS ARE SPENDING MORE TIME IN JAIL.

ALL INDICATIONS ARE THAT DAS WILL INDEED ASSUME A MUCH MORE AGGRESSIVE POSITION THAN IN THE PAST. DAS WILL, HOWEVER, UNDERGO A SHAKE-DOWN PERIOD AS READJUSTMENTS ARE MADE IN PER AND ORG AND SOME TIME MAY ELAPSE BEFORE MATA LLANA IS IN A POSITION TO BRING TO BEAR THE FULL IMPACT OF DAS' CAPABILITY TO THE WAR ON NARCOTICS. PRESENT PLANS CALL FOR AN AUTONOMOUS UNIT OF APPROX 50 NARCOTICS OFFICERS WITHIN THE DAS JUDICIAL POLICE SECTION. THIS UNIT WILL BE HEADED BY A RETIRED NATIONAL POLICE LTC WHO WILL HAVE AUTHORITY TO OPERATE THROUGHOUT COLOMBIA. ADDITIONAL MEN WILL BE ASSIGNED AS NARCOTICS AGENTS IN PRIORITY AREAS IN COLOMBIA.

NOTWITHSTANDING INDICATORS THAT DAS WILL BECOME MORE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT, THE NATIONAL POLICE CONTINUE TO MAKE MARKED IMPROVEMENT IN ITS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS AND AT THE PRESENT TIME IS THE PRINCIPAL NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY IN COLOMBIA. THE NP HAVE SELECTED AN ADDITIONAL 50 AGENTS TO BRING THE STRENGTH OF THE NARCOTICS UNIT UP TO 100 AGENTS.

#### 6. TREATMENT/REHABILITATION/EDUCATION.

THERE ARE APPROX SIX DRUG ABUSE REHABILITATION CENTERS IN COLOMBIA. THE DIRECTOR OF ONE OF THESE ATTENDED A TWO WEEK US SPONSORED HEALTH SEMINAR IN THE US. UPON HIS RETURN HE MADE AN EXHAUSTIVE REPORT TO THE NATIONAL NARCOTICS COUNCIL WITH RECOMMENDATIONS THAT A SIMILAR

SEMINAR BE HELD IN COLOMBIA. THE MIN OF HEALTH HAS PROMISED APPROX 1,000,000 PESOS TO DOCTOR MARIA ISABEL DE LINCE TO FOUND A RE-HABILITATION CENTER IN BOGOTA. IT WILL BE SOME MONTHS BEFORE THIS BECOMES A REALITY. DOCTOR DE LINCE IS A LEADING SOCIOLOGIST IN COLOMBIA WHO OWNS AND DIRECTS A WEEKLY NATIONALLY TELEVISED PROGRAM ON DRUG ABUSE.

7. TRAINING.

THE RECENTLY SELECTED CHIEF OF THE DAS NARCOTICS UNIT IS PRESENTLY IN THE US ATTENDING THE DEA 6 WEEK NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT COURSE.

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APPROX 50 DAS AND 50 NATIONAL POLICE PER HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO ATTEND THE TWO SEPARATE DEA 2 WEEK IN COUNTRY NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT COURSES WHICH WILL BEGIN ON OCT 28/74. THE US SECRET SERVICE RECENTLY COMPLETED A ONE WEEK COUNTERFEIT COURSE IN COLOMBIA. THIS WAS THE FIRST COURSE OF THIS NATURE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SS CONDUCTED OUTSIDE THE US. THE COURSE WAS GIVEN TO 30 DAS AND 30 NATIONAL POLICE. THIS SHOULD PROVE TO BE YET AN ADDITIONAL ASSET IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT DUE TO THE PROMINENT ROLE COLOMBIA HAS IN COUNTERFEITING US DOLLARS (FIRST IN THE WORLD) AND THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNTERFEIT MONEY AND THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC.

8. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL COOPERATION.

NO SIGNIFICANT NEW INFO.

9. EMB AND HOST GOVT ACTIVITIES.

ON SEP 9/74 THE AMB MET WITH PRES LOPEZ AND PRESENTED HIM WITH A "NARCOTICS FACT SHEET" PREPARED BY THE EMB NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. THE PRES HAS SUBSEQUENTLY USED THIS DOCUMENT IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PRESENTATIONS AS A GUIDELINE IN GAINING SUPPORT FOR AN IMPROVED NARCOTICS PROGRAM IN COLOMBIA. VAKY

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## Message Attributes

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